

The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held on January 22, 1973 with Chairman, William Press presiding.

After a quorum was declared present, the minutes of the September meeting were circulated and on motion approved.

The financial report of the Trustees was presented by Cy Liberman. A copy is on file.

The Mt. Pleasant School district would like to return the Arden School to the Village of Arden, but it has to be done by an act of Legislature. Representative Daniel E. Weiss will co-sponsor a bill to do this. If the building is returned; it will be necessary to rent it to others in order to defray the expenses of heat, light, upkeep and janitorial service. No decisions can be made on this subject until the Legislature acts on the bill favorably.

The Trustees circulated the figures showing the effect of the reassessment of County taxes on Arden finances. The new assessment is 145 acres at \$3,192,700. If the taxes do go up our increase over budgeted figure will be \$17,150 or 21.7% increase. If the commons and forests are transferred to the Village of Arden, the increase will be \$8,850 or 11.2%. The present budget was a deficit budget, drawing \$4,200 from the Trustees's reserve, but the reserve cannot cover the increased taxes.

Mr. Cohen pointed out that the Trustees are not empowered to borrow money and that taxes must be paid before any other expense can be settled. Mr. Cohen does not feel that the community should approve a deficit budget that reduces the reserve fund too low.

Mr. Cohen suggested that the Trustees meet with the Board of Assessors and the Budget Committee to discuss this problem.

A petition was circulated stating "We, the undersigned, residents of the Village of Arden, do hereby authorize, approve and consent to the making of gift (unleased lands of Arden, consisting mainly of forest land, title to which is now held by the Trustee) by said Trustees and the acceptance thereof by the Village of Arden and we do further ratify and confirm all that the said Trustees may do in the premises, including the execution of a deed of conveyance in fee simple from the said Trustees to the Village of Arden for the unleased lands of Arden, and we do further waive formal notice of any meeting pertaining thereto."

It was reported to the meeting that a total of 259 (to be confirmed by the Registration Committee) favored the proposed transfer of non-leased lands of the Trustees of Arden to the Village of Arden and that a majority of those voting favored restrictions on the future use of the land transferred.

A resolution was adopted approving a tentative draft of a restrictive clause to be made a part of the deed to be prepared by Philip Cohen, Trustee, to carry out the transfer of the land. After the meeting the proposed clause was refined by Mr. Cohen, who prepared the following wording:

RESTRICTIVE CLAUSE TO BE INCORPORATED IN DEED FROM TRUSTEES OF ARDEN TO "THE VILLAGE OF ARDEN" OF THE WOODLANDS AND COMMONS OF ARDEN;

"SUBJECT NEVERTHELESS, to the reservation and restriction that no part, nor all of the lands herein conveyed shall be sold, leased, or in any manner alienated, nor shall they be mortgaged or in any manner encumbered, except by the consent of a majority of the residents of Arden.

The consent of a majority of the residents of Arden shall be obtained by a referendum vote conducted in accordance with the Rules of the Registration Committee of the Village of Arden and certified under oath by its Secretary. The certification shall be recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for New Castle County.

The report of the Trustees was accepted.

Michael Curtis reported that he had been elected Chairman of the Board of Assessors and that Shaul Gladstone is secretary.

Civic Committee report was presented by Warren Hoffman. The major activity since the last Town Assembly has been superintending the extensive roadwork. Resurfacing and/or gutter installation has been done on Millers Road, Wind Lane, The Highway, Hillside Road, and Walnut Lane. Approximately \$1500 of the contract payment is being withheld because some of the work is incomplete and some was done incorrectly and will have to be fixed. Snow removal has been arranged with a contractor. If you have any snow removal problems, please contact Joan Colgan or Mary Morley. The utility companies have been getting permits to open the roads.

Safety Committee report was presented by Richard Lynch: They have taken steps to implement the resolution passed at the September meeting concerning congregation on the green and commons. The State police will do all they can to carry out the town's wishes.

There has been a significant amount of vandalism done to the new traffic control and parking signs erected in September and numerous mailboxes were damaged. Some of those responsible were identified by some of the adults patrolling. Letters were sent to the parents asking for reimbursement, but no response was received.

The Safety Committee has arranged for an off-duty patrol man to be in the parking lot during Town Assembly meetings, because of the vandalism at the January meeting on January 9.

A number of residents have marked their articles as part of Operation Identification.

The Safety Committee is considering introducing an ordinance requiring leaseholders to trim hedges and shrubs to permit adequate visibility at corners of the roads.

At the January meeting it was mentioned that the Safety Committee would seek legislative action to permit installation of a traffic light at Orleans and Harvey Roads. A year or so ago the Town Assembly approved this concept, but the survey made by the State Highway Department concluded that the cross-traffic and turning-traffic volume did not justify a light. Unless there is some objection, the committee will proceed to meet with our legislators and obtain a light.

Some people thought that the Safety Committee should not send letters about vandalism unless they had definite identification of those responsible for the damage.

Frank Akutowicz felt that a light at the corner of Orleans and Harvey would not control the speeding on the road and that people might just run the light. He does not feel that there is any technical basis for asking for the light.

The committee report on motion was accepted.

Carolyn Liberman reported that all items of the Budget for 1973-74 carried with a sizable majority. The following Assessors were elected to serve for one year: Michael Curtis, Joan(Penny) Colgan, Morris Rosin, Carl VonDreele, Aaron Hamburger, Shaul Gladstone, Bernard Brachman. A total of 309 ballots representing 76% of the 406 voters were received.

The Registration Committee is studying ways to carry on machine balloting for our committees at the March meeting.

On motion the report of the Registration was approved.

There was no report from the Auditing or Budget committees.

The Community Planning Committee report was presented by Frank Akutowicz.

He stated that were making a determined effort to get the Arden Book finished this spring.

A fund has been created to help with maintenance of the Memorial Garden. Unmarked graves are being marked, some deferred work is being done on the trees and markers identifying the trees are being put on. Ethel Monfort and Edith Ware are coordinating this project.

Everyone is requested to pick up highway litter to keep Arden beautiful.

The committee requests that residents park on own leasehold and not cut up the shoulders of the roads when they are soft.

The report on motion accepted.

State Representative Daniel E. Weiss visited the Town Assembly and the order of business was suspended in order for him to address the meeting.

He is introducing a bill to return the Arden School to the Trustees of Arden for community use. If this is approved, the lease will be purchased for one dollar from the State Board of Education. Mt. Pleasant School district is in favor of this action and it has a good chance of being enacted.

He is sympathetic to our desire to find a way out of voting by machine, but our bid for an amendment to the bill last year was not approved.

He has expressed an interest in Arden's problems and hopes to be able to attend other meetings.

Advisory Committee report by Aaron Hamburger:

Arden has received \$2,104. in Revenue Sharing funds. It was decided to ask that Hugh Roberts and his committee study all the details of the Revenue Sharing Act and be prepared to suggest ways the money can be spent under the act.

Ways of improving the Town Assembly were suggested.

All Committees be asked to bring in written reports.

All motions should be written out and the Secretary will provide pencil and paper.

We could increase participation on committees if those not elected be asked to serve in advisory capacity on committees.

Suggested that Town Assembly Chairman appoint a Parliamentarian who would

study the Roberts Rules of Order and prepare details of conducting meetings and know all ways of controlling them. This person would be on hand to help when necessary at the Town Assembly. The list of nominees for committees will be reported under new business.

The report on motion accepted.

Ardens' Resources committee report was made by Leon Tanzzer. He listed the following points:

1. The Arden Club is instituting a new group for 13 to 16 year olds under the direction of John Riley. The Cosmos Gild is also continuing but not meeting as regularly.
2. Suggesting that perhaps Mt. Pleasant High School could have a course in community responsibility.
3. It was thought the Big Brother idea might be worked out in the Ardens.
4. Investigate State laws that make parents responsible for tort of their children up to \$300.
5. Establish a panel of citizens to hear problems of vandalism. They would act as a clearinghouse for the reporting of incidents of vandalism and try to get accurate identification of those responsible.
6. Urge residents to sign up for OPERATION IDENTIFICATION.
7. Look into improvement of handling of cases in court and what legislation is necessary
8. Suggested coordination of the Safety Committees of all the Ardens.
9. Suggest that the Safety Committee study the patrol system started in Windybush by its residents and to find out if it would be feasible for Arden.

Under new business a motion will be made suggesting the formation of the panel on vandalism.

The report on motion approved.

Archives Committee not report.

Under Old Business the motion made by the Harvey Road Committee concerning the suggestion that negotiations be initiated with the State Highway Department to reduce hazards on Harvey Road was again discussed. It has been tabled since the June Town Assembly and it was felt that it should be modified, rejected or passed, but not held in suspension any longer.

During the discussion the feeling that the State Highway Department could not be trusted to just make the improvements that had been discussed and that they would insist on a major highway.

Mr. Weiss had been alerted that the charter could be amended by the legislature removing the clause that made it difficult for the State Highway Department to condemn land along the Harvey Road.

It was felt that we should try to negotiate with the State Highway Department to reduce hazards along the Harvey Road.

It is necessary that the town decide what is most important, safety or appearances.

The following motion was made by Warren Hoffman and seconded:
 "The Town Assembly directs that a committee of three persons, one of whom shall be a Trustee, seek the opinion of the Division of Highways concerning possible improvements to Harvey Road. The

response shall be for imformative purposes only and shall not be binding in any way, and shall be promptly reported to the Town Assembly. The proposed improvements shall make the minimum impact on the Village in terms of app^{ear}ance and space required for right-of-way."

On motion it was carried with two negative votes.

It was suggested that the Secretary inform Representative Weiss of this action.

On motion the Safety Committee was instructed to pursue the matter of a light at Harvey and Orleans Roads.

Under New Business the Advisory Committee presented the following slate of nominees for committees to be elected in March. Those marked with an asterisk are presently serving:

AUDITING COMMITTEE: William Bindloss*, Ruth Dolmetsch, Liz Downes, Elvira Grimaldi, Frank Heymann, Jal Kerawalla
 BUDGET COMMITTEE: Henry Aughey*, Barbara Fenske, Frank Herzog*, Jerry Millstein, Charles Showard, Paul Thompson, Woodrow Vandever*
 CIVIC COMMITTEE: David Adkins, William Bindloss, Joan Colgan*, Reese Davis*, Ted E. Davis, Warren Hoffman*, Cheryl Jones, Lee Starr.
 COMMUNTIY PLANNING COMMITTEE: Frank Akutowicz*, Ted E. Davis, Cy Liberman*, Ethel Monfort*, Matthew O'Conner, Virginia Shaw.
 REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Sally Hamburger, Mary Kumme*, Carolyn Liberman*, Kay Ringer, Temma Tanzer, Maryann Van Neerden*.
 SAFETY COMMITTEE: Thomas Colgan*, Michael Dougherty, Shaul Gladstone*, Warren Hoffman*, Cheryl Jones, Russell McKinney.
 ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Aaron Hamburger
 CHAIRMAN OF TOWN ASSEMBLY: William Press
 SECRETARY OF TOWN ASSEMBLY: Mary Morley
 TREASURER OF TOWN ASSEMBLY: Rae Gerstine

On motion the slate of committee members proposed by the Advisory Committee was accepted.

The following motion was made and carried unanimously. It was presented by Cy Liberman :

Whereas the Trustees of Arden are planning to convey to the Village of Arden, a Municipal Corporation, as a gift, the unleased lands of Arden consisting of Commons, and woodlands subject to a restrictive covenant as to alienation or encumberancing said lands without the consent of the Trustees and the residents of Arden, and
 Whereas, the Village of Arden is desirous of acquiring said lands subject to safeguards as to alienation and/or encumbrancing.
 Be it, therefore, Resolved that the Village of Arden, a Municipal Corporation as aforesaid accept title to said unleased lands as aforesaid when so offerd by the Trustees.

Motion was made and passed that the Secretary write to the Trustees thanking them for all hours of work they have put in studying the tax problem faced by Arden.

Leon Tanzer proposed the following motion:

"Move that the Town Assembly of Arden support the establishment of the "Three Ardens" Vandalism Committee" composed of two members each

from Arden, Ardentown and Ardencroft.

This committee will:

1. Act as a clearinghouse for the reporting of incidents of vandalism.
2. Investigate the incidents where possible.
3. Take appropriate action including:
 - A. Contacting offenders and/or their parents.
 - B. Maintaining contact with legal authorities.
 - C. Recommending professional help.

The two representative from Arden to be chosen by the Chairman of the Town Assembly.

The meeting on motion adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morley
 Mary Morley
 Secretary